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ZONE OF PEACE AND COOPERATION OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

Letter dated 4 November 1993 from the representative of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On the instructions of my Government, and in my capacity as Coordinator of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic, I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of the Declaration that was issued after the consultations held at ministerial level by States members of the Zone on 5 October 1993 in New York (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the text of the present letter and the Declaration as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 37.

(Signed) Isaac E. AYEWAH
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Declaration of the Ministerial Meeting of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic of 5 October 1993

1. Member States of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic held consultations in New York at ministerial level on 5 October 1993, under the chairmanship of Nigeria as Coordinator, in which the following countries participated: Angola, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Uruguay, and adopted the following Declaration of the Ministerial Meeting of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic of 5 October 1993.

2. The Ministers reviewed the international situation since the end of the cold war and reiterated the continuing validity of the Zone as a relevant and viable instrument of multilateral cooperation among its members and reaffirmed the capacity of the forum to contribute to the promotion of international peace and security.

3. They reaffirmed their commitment to reinvigorate and sustain the momentum of support which the Zone requires in order to fulfil its obligations to member States in the pursuit of their collective aspirations.

4. They reiterated that zonal peace and cooperation must be seen in an integrated, mutual and self-reinforcing manner and in their efforts to concretize them, they must avail themselves of the structures and competences available in member States in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, environmental and developmental fields.

5. The Ministers noted with interest that the meeting of the Ministers of Trade and Industry of the Zone which was to have taken place in Namibia in September 1993 has now been rescheduled for 25 and 26 November 1993.

6. The Ministers recalled the conclusions of the second high-level official meeting held at Abuja, Nigeria, and emphasized the need for holding such meetings on a regular basis beginning from 1994. They underscored the political importance of holding such meetings in the capital of a member State.

7. The Ministers stressed the importance of the attainment of the objectives of the 1964 Declaration of the Organization of African Unity on the Denuclearization of Africa and the 1967 Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco, and its Additional Protocols I and II. Such mechanisms, once in effect, could be strengthened by the adoption of additional measures such as a treaty on the denuclearization of the South Atlantic.

8. The Ministers took note of the Brazilian proposal to undertake a study on the prospect of a treaty on the denuclearization of the South Atlantic.

9. The Ministers stressed the importance for the Zone of the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro

from 3 to 14 June 1992, in particular the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the programmes set forth in Agenda 21 as well as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity in the conviction that their full implementation will strengthen the basis for further cooperation within the Zone.

10. They recognized the need for States of the Zone to contribute further to these efforts, particularly those with relevant capabilities to consider possible cooperation with interested member States towards the establishment of joint monitoring mechanisms in the South Atlantic, including coastal watch of toxic dumps.

11. In this connection, they took note with satisfaction of the proposal made by Brazil for the negotiation among the South Atlantic countries of an appropriate instrument on marine protection as a complement to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and as a follow-up to the relevant part of Agenda 21, particularly chapter 17.

12. The Ministers reviewed the adverse international economic environment and the importance of enhanced cooperation in economic and financial matters and agreed that coordination of policies in various forums would contribute significantly to the realization of the objectives of the Zone. In this connection, they took note with satisfaction of General Assembly resolution 47/181 and stressed the importance of "An agenda for development" and urged States Members of the United Nations to lend their full support to the Secretary-General in the elaboration of that agenda.

13. They noted the importance of scientific and technical cooperation in furthering the principles and objectives of the Zone and, in this respect, stressed the need for increased exchange of information on research and development of the resources of the region.

14. The Ministers reiterated their full support for the efforts of the international community, especially the recent Security Council resolutions aimed at achieving a permanent resolution of the conflicts in Angola and Liberia.

15. The Ministers welcomed the agreement reached between the Governments of Namibia and South Africa setting 28 February 1994 as the date for the transfer and reintegration of Walvis Bay and the off-shore islands into Namibia, in accordance with Security Council resolution 432 (1978).

16. The Ministers also commended the Government of the Republic of Namibia for successfully achieving this noble goal through peaceful means.

17. The Ministers noted with interest the political developments within South Africa leading towards a united, non-racial, democratic South Africa and urged all parties concerned in South Africa to cooperate with a view to ending the continuing violence, thereby creating an environment conducive to the establishment of an interim government and the subsequent holding of democratic elections in the country.

18. The Ministers expressed the hope that the Zone would continue to be an active instrument for fostering human rights, fundamental freedoms, racial equality, justice and liberty as integral elements of peace, development and cooperation at national and regional levels.

19. The Ministers welcomed with appreciation the offer by the Government of Brazil to host the next high-level official meeting of the Zone simultaneously with the meeting of high officials in charge of sports and youth affairs during the second part of 1994.

20. The Ministers decided to constitute the Permanent Missions of Member States in New York as the Coordinating Bureau of the Zone.

21. The Ministers expressed profound gratitude to the Government of Nigeria, which has been serving as Coordinator of the Zone since it last met at Abuja, Nigeria, in 1990.